



520.42989X00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: T. SHIROGANE et al.
Serial No.: 10/629,813
Filed: July 30, 2003
For: STORAGE SYSTEM
Group: 2145
Examiner: A. Choudhury

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 21, 2006

Sir:

Before further examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2.

Remarks are included following the amendments.